has also issued closure orders to 2616 identified water polluting units. In Haryana, out of 21 identified grossly polluting units along Yamuna, 12 units are complying with discharge standards, five units are closed and four units are defaulters facing action under the environmental law. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, out of 11 grossly polluting units discharging waste water into river Yamuna, six units are complying with discharge standards, four units are closed and one unit is defaulting facing action under the environmental law.

Protecting the bio-diversity

4287. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are working on an ambitious plan to protect bio-diversity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funding and operating agencies of the proposed plan ;

(c) by when the plan is likely to be launched; and

(d) whether any central coordinating agency has been set up for dealing with logistics, administration and different aspects of macro-level plan so as to tackle effectively the policies and actions needed for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has prepared a National Policy and Macrolevel Action Strategy on Biodiversity. For developing detailed microlevel action plans at State and regional levels, the Government has accessed funding to the tune of US$968,200 from Global Environment Facility for a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Project (NBSAP). Key features of this project include an emphasis on decentralised state level planing, and the use of interdisciplinary working groups to involve all sectors concerned with biodiversity conservation. The project is for a duration of two years.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is the executing agency for the project. For implementing this project, a consortium arrangement between Biotech Consortium India Ltd. (BCIL), New Delhi, and Kalpavriksh, an NGO has been worked out. BCIL is the Coordinating Agency to deal with

administrative financial and logistic arrangements. Kalpavriksh is the Coordinator of a Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG) and responsible for technical execution of the project. To oversee the implementation of the project, a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from relevant Central Sectoral Ministries/Departments and experts has been constituted.

(c) The BSAP project was officially launched on 11-4-2000 by the Minister for Environment and Forests.

(d) No, Sir.

Decline in the Tiger Population in Orissa

4288. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of tigers in Orissa has declined as per the recent census in 1998 ;

(b) what are the reasons that subsequent to Simplipal in 1972, no further areas have been included in Orissa, under Project Tiger;

(c) whether Government have initiated any sreps to include more areas in the State under the Project Tiger Scheme; and

(d) what are the reasons that dispite the rich potential for Sunabeda and Satkosia George, the Project Tiger Scheme is not being set up there ?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) There has been a marginal decreas in the tiger population in Orissa between 1989 to 1993 and between 1993 to 1997. The population of tigers in the State of Orissa is as under :

State	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1997
Orissa	142	173	202	243	226	194

(b) to (d) The Government of Orissa has proposed to include Satkosia George Sanctuary as Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger Scheme. The Steering Committee of Project Tiger has to consider the proposal before taking further action.